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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Department

From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

Date: April 1, 2014

RE: Mechanical Refrigeration and Compliance with 527 CMR 33.00

As the result of a recent ammonia leak at a local ice skating rink, it was discovered that the facility was not in compliance with 527 CMR 33.00. This regulation covers mechanical systems for cooling and chilling, which use ammonia or LP-Gas as the refrigerant. Such mechanical systems must comply with the provisions of 527 CMR 33.00

I bring this matter to your attention as these systems are sometimes overlooked.

These large mechanical refrigeration systems are regulated under 527 CMR 33.00 when they use ammonia or LP-Gas and may be further regulated under 40 CFR Part 68: EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency *Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions* regulation (Federal EPA regulations)) if the quantities of regulated substances (ammonia/LP-Gas) exceed the 10,000 lb. threshold level.

The regulation is an important safety regulation regarding the use of ammonia/LP-Gas which may result in a leak or other serious mishaps which would threaten public safety.

If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western, MA at (413) 587-3181.